

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00359 091722Z

61

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 00359

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, BE

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS ON THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

1. L'UNITA JANUARY 9 CARRIES THE FOLLOWING ITEM (EMBASSY TRANSLATION) REPORTING COMMENTS OF BELGIUM PREMIER TINDEMANS ON THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI). QUOTE. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RADIO STATION FRANCE-INTER, PICKED UP BY THE PRESS AGENCY ANSA, BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS (WHO YESTERDAY PRESENTED IN BRUSSELS HIS REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION) SAID THAT "GIVEN THE ACTUAL STATE OF THINGS IN EUROPE, THE ARRIVAL TO POWER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS WOULD, AT FIRST GLANCE, CHANGE NOTHING" AND WOULD NOT ENTAIL THE CHANGE OF "ONE SINGLE COMMA" IN THIS REPORT. TINDEMANS RECALLED HAVING MET WITH A PCI DELEGATION RECENTLY IN ROME: "BERLINGUER, HIMSELF,-- HE AFFIRMED--STATED TO ME HIS SUPPORT FOR THE FACT THAT EUROPE SHOULD ACQUIRE A LARGER IDENTITY AND THAT EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE DEMOCRATIZED. NOW, IT IS PRECISELY THIS THAT I PROPOSE IN MY REPORT." THE PREMIER ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM BERLINGUER ASSURANCE THAT THE PCI "WOULD RESPECT THE DEMOCRATIC ORDER". END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO AUTHORIZE

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PAGE 02 ROME 00359 091722Z

EMBASSY BRUSSELS TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF TINDE-

MANS IN AS DISCREET A MANNER AS POSSIBLE THE USE-
FULNESS OF THESE TYPES OF STATMENTS FOR THE PCI
IN THEIR PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WITHIN ITALY TO
DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS A TRULY
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCE BY WESTERN POLITICAL
LEADERS. SAME APPROACH SHOULD EMPHASIZE REAL
QUESTIONS THAT EXIST ABOUT LONG-TERM PCI COMMITMENT
TO WESTERN DEMOCRACY AND CITE HISTORICAL
PRECEDENT THAT WHERE COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE COME
TO POWER OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES WITHER AWAY.
APPROACH, IF MADE, SHOULD ALSO INCORPORATE SECRE-
TARY'S RECENT COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL DANGERS FOR
NATO AND US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS CREATED BY THE
ENTRY OF A COMMUNIST PARTY INTO A GOVERNMENT WHICH
IS A MEMBER OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. FINALLY,
REFERENCE MIGHT BE MADE TO FACT THAT PCI ENTRY INTO
ITALIAN GOVERNING COALITION COULD RESULT IN SEVERE
DISLOCATIONS TO ITALIAN ECONOMY AS FOREIGN
CAPITAL WOULD INEVITABLY BE SCARED OFF AND
ITALIAN INDUSTRIALIST AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS WOULD
PRESUMABLY BE RELUCTANT TO UNDERTAKE NEW COMMITMENTS
NEEDED TO GENERATE ITS EXPANSION. IMPLICATIONS OF
SUCH A DEVELOPMENT FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE
COMMON MARKET AND FOR THE GROWTH OF EUROPEAN UNION
SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY EC
POLITICAL LEADERS.VOLPE

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